[Daily Field Notes] (6)

Box 29 Folder 2

1953-1954

Dec. 1 MacNash left Ottawa for N.Y. Flight to Brownville cost $109.00

Dec. 2 Bought Grflexcamera in N.Y. for about $75.00 and film for 10.00
Took evening plane to Brownsville.

Dec. 3. Arrived in Brownsvilleand went to bank to put check thru. Sat and looked at jeeps saw none worth while. Looked at equipment at Whitmans. PeterGrant arrivedin the evevening . Wewill saay in MillerHotel.

A.M.

Dec. 4. - Saw Philen - He told me he has another ranch between Acuna and Alamo which has ruins on it. Also will ask his overseers about Caves. Told me to be sure and visit Barrios as he has mammoth and is very interested in archaeology. D.H. Kelly arrived

Dec. 5. - Bought groceries ($25) and looked at Whitmans' camping supplies. Saw two good jeeps. Will buy one for $525 of 1944 in good condition.

Dec. 6 - Nothing to do

Dec. 7 - Bought jeep (535) and got money in bank. Rented by old trailer for $10 for a month. Bought supplies from Watkins $184. Packed stuff. Ready to leave by 5 o'clock then Martinez told he would sell me the other jeep tomorrow

Dec. 8. Bought jeep. Packed rest of stuff bought car tents window and got more money from bank. Went thru customs in about 2 hours. Then we went two jeep trailer for San Fernando. The road was awful. The axle of orange Chevrolet trailer became unhitched. Even got it fixed. Arrived in C. Victoria about midnight.

Dec. 9. Moved to Casa Tamaulipas. Jose Saavedra will be using his shop on Hidalgo Calle, below in C. Victoria, Tamaulipas as mailing address. Zuniga and looked at a beautiful house for $40 Then Saavedra showed us one for 150 pesos

gray jeep front wheel shimmy taken care of. Geared up both jeeps.

Tm 189 visited a site near Tomalon school. Got a few pots but little else

Dec. 10. Put new spark plugs in red jeep. Repacked everything in the rain. Took trailer + Red jeep to Saavedra's yard. Saw Joe Martinez y Martinez who told me of various sites. but nothing very new.

Saw Edmundo Castro who told of Cueva in Alcampo and caves there. Also knows of cave full of skeletons and a petate somewhere near Victoria.

Champion told us of Daniel Yarrito in C. Victoria who knows of ruins near ranch of Junia de la Rosa and Raymond de Leon.

Castro will arrange for me to see the governor when I get back from C. Victoria and wants to try to arrange an exhibit in a Museum in Juriaeny. ~~visit site near Tomalon school. Get a~~

Dec. 11 – Left in grey jeep south down and went to site at Tm R 195 foot of cuesta Llera and picked up a lot of stuff including some El Prieto period figurines. Spent about an hour here.

Then on to Kilometer 604 east of highway where Tm R 228 there were at least 3 pyramids. Found sherds but little else. Poor site.

– Then on to Alcampo, broke a feed line going to Charnal. Taylor took 15 alley to town while Jim Proctor brought him back.

Finally arrived in Alcampo about 10 o'clock

Dec. 12 — Started out with two guides Juan Melendes and Fransico ——— . went 10 miles N.W of Acampo to Rancho Progreso to see ~~Guerra~~ Victor Ignacio Guerra. Not home. Saw his son Ramon who ~~showed up~~ showed us a site accross from his house. There

Tm R224 are a couple of mounds and some rectangular and round house platforms. It has three round pyramids

Then went a mile south to Ejido

Tm R225 Lebrado Rivera in Progreso and found over 10 mounds and large amounts of material. This is a site worth ~~testing~~.

Then back to town for lunch.

Then out to Rancho Albarca - 2 miles

Tm R226 east of Acampo. Here we found 7 pyramids some of which are rectangular and stepped. Got a load of a lot of sherds. Looks like Tuscan (III) Period but engraving is like Cuddo.

Then back to see mayor and got a warm friendly reception.

Heard of ruins around Chanal and in ~~Rancho~~ Ejidio Canoe and heard of a cave in Canyon Tigre near San Ramon Rancho. Also, heard of a site on Rancho El Toro - Palo Najéra near Nuevo ~~Ba~~ Morelos

Dec. 16. — Drove to Chanal in the morning and went out to Pierson's ranch "Los Comas". Pierson sent a boy and us to three mounds about ½ west of Ranch house.

Tm R 234 Two of the mounds were about 10 feet high and about 40 feet in diameter and surface by volcanic rock. The third is circular about 7 feet high and enclosed by wall of rock of about 2½ feet high with an opening to the south. This almost look like a modern addition. Found shards, engraved shell and obsidian flakes. Not worth digging.

——— Pierson showed us a clay head from his field along the arroyo Rio Boquilla. The said shards and other figurines occurred there. This figure had eyes made from concentric circles and two holes in back of the head for suspension.

— Then drove further south toward A. Morelos to Rancho Palmar owned by Francisco Gomez.

Tm R 235 There is a large rectangular pyramid 40 by 20 by 15 as well as two mounds about 10 feet high. There were report of many figurines but we only picked up a few shards. This should be tested.

— Then back to Ocampo. ~~Camba~~ On the south side of the road just before the second bridge in Ocampo valley coming from Chanal there is

Tm R 236 a rectangular pyramid about 12 feet high and 25 feet long. It contained a few shards. Not worth digging.

Packed stuff in Ocampo. Sent box of artifacts collected in El Monte. Francisco ~~Zapiote~~ Guadalupe Ramirez - Calle Guadalupe Marcero 220 Te

Dec 16 — Drove into C. Victoria from Ocampo in 3½ hours. Saw Ramon Ignacio Guevara. Told me of 3 good caves and 2 mines in Canyon Intercrillo. Will have to go on horseback. Plan on going to Ocampo Dec. 26 and into Canyon on 27, 28, 29, 30, return to Mulatos on 30 or 31. He is an intelligent man with much interest and will show us other mines and guide us.

Dec. 17 — Looked at a lot of loose without seeing any I like or at the correct price. Couldn't find Castro but spoke with Guerra again

Had grey sisp ground and oil changed. while the Red one had its brakes fixed.

Was killed of San Antonio de la Ruinas and some came near it.

Ate at Tuxpeños and got an excellent expensive meal

Dec. 18. — Worked on graphs and notes. Made a big chart of the exports of the Sierra de Tamaulipas for Castro.

Don Carlos who showed us some period II or Banco Period sherds and small pots from Tamiu. Also saw a few figurines from Tajumu as well drawing of pictographs from near Montemorg (how come?)

Peter worked out our expenses with average about $8 per day (9 days at 652 = 9/5520 = 8.60 / 24,44.00 / 8.40 / 6880 / 3640)

Got one money from bank and put in $200 from Granville.

Dec. 19 – Left Victoria about 10 in the morning and went up over the mountains to Joya Verde. ate lunch there. Valiente Mariscal, owner of cafe told of ruins eight hours up in the mountains at Rancho San Antonio (near Rancho la Pita) He also told of a cave where there are skeletons about 4½ hours from this region (see page —)

As we came into the Jamave valley on the cliffs east of the road could be seen 2 or 3 caves. These should be investigated (see page —

Then we crossed the large arroyo, Rio Chihue and started up and about 200 yards before the first small arroyo

Tm c 237 39 miles from Victoria we found Tm c 237. There were many flint chips and small points, scrapers etc. There were 3 early points and some pottery. I suspect it is a late site with some possible stratigraphy. However it is so badly eroded that it is not worth digging.

Arrived in Jamave and saw Presidente Henrique Garcia and his secretary Marino Sanchez. They arranged for a guide & Francisco Becerra to take me to a Rancho Abril 20 to see ruins and caves. Also was told of ruins at Palmillas and Santiago

Dec. 20. — Waited for guide who never showed up. Then in afternoon went to Palmillas. Spoke to the President and met the school teacher Pedro Lema and Juan Perez who took us 2 a mile south of town. It contained about 17 mounds and lots of pottery (like Boquil Period). Returned to Jacumane for the night. Met the local Commander Abraham V. Mejia Sanchez.

Tm R 238

Dec. 21 — Spoke to people from Joya Verde who told that a road went into 20 de Abril (Joya de Palos) from Concepcion. Says there is a gringo who takes out wood from El Norte. — About noon left for Palmillas. On the way at Cielo Morado we stopped on climbed a cliff to look at cave. It contained nothing.

— Then on to Palmillas and out to Tm R 238. Made camera and made a rough sketch of area. Started one square in center of plaza and a series across the corners in a small mound west of the large one. Took a section of cut and one of slope of large mound. In the walls of the excavation is at 7 superimposed floors may be ten. It was completely round.

Photo No

T. 12 2SR

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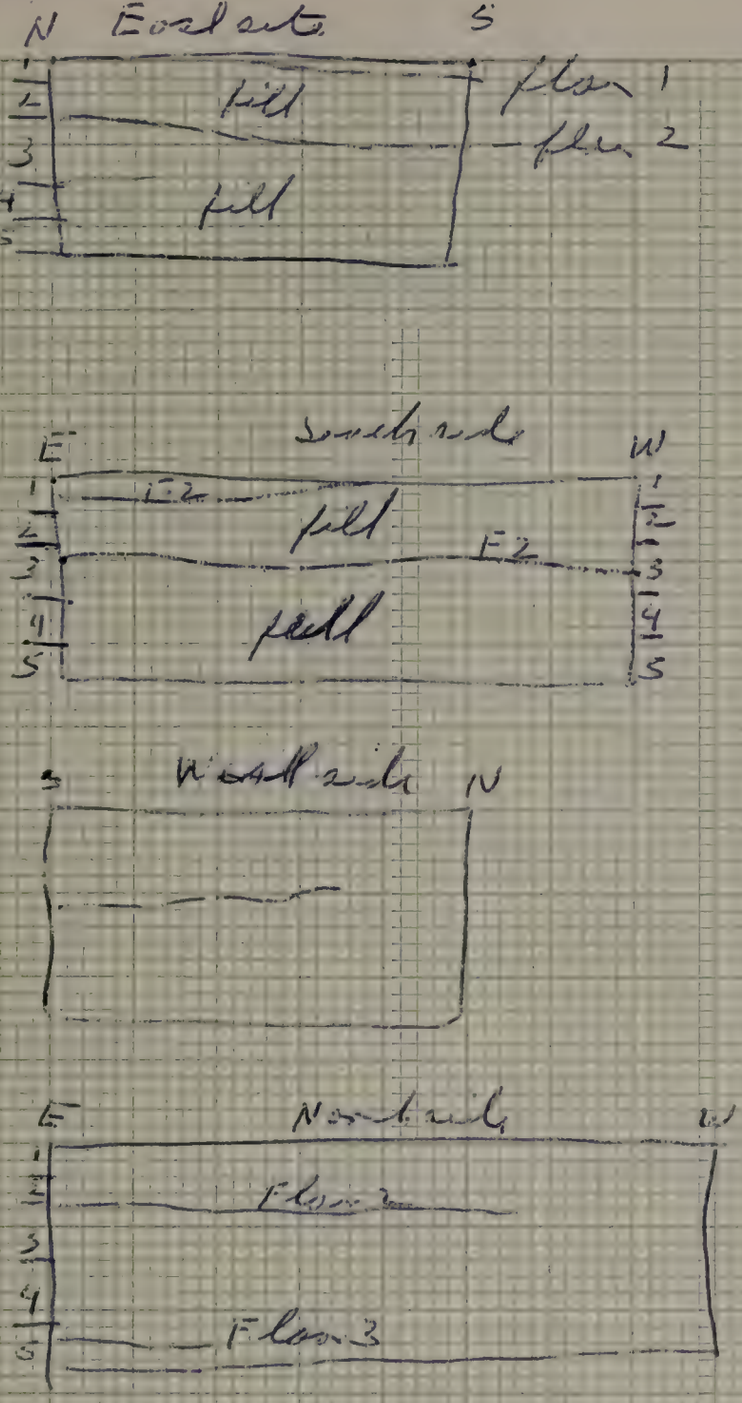
□-Test 1

□— Test 2

□— Test 3

Expenses

Tm c 238 – Test 3



Dec. 22 — Left about nine o'clock for the ruin. Tm R 238, First we put a five square (No.1) down in the center of the mound plaza. Took a top level (floor level) but it contained little, then went down to a second level and struck gravel and sterile soil about one foot down. Then looked at all the mounds for a rich one. Found two - One was south of the main mound and put down Test 2. South west of the main mound put down Test 3.

Excavations in test 2 were very primitive and poorly done. We dug near a large trunk of a tree where many sherds of a large olla occurred. Cleaned sherds of a large olla which had been placed upside down and then had broken took a picture of it. Removed sherds and found a small olla upside down next to a bowl made of upright slabs of rocks. In the center of the slab was a small coyuella right side up. Took a picture of it. And to side next to it was a orange coyuella on its side. Then unroofed and were on top of a skull of a youth. Below it was the rest of the body which we left. Took a facial picture and filled it.

Photo No
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Excavations in Test 3. Then we dug a 5 by 7 foot Trench (east-west) in ~~in~~ six levels and screened the material. In level one in the east part of the trench was a floor (1). In level 2 (6-12") we found a badly disturbed burial lying on Floor 2 in Level 3. Level 4 was filled

while land #5 was mainly fell but it lay on [illegible] 3.

—— After we finished digging we went ½ mile south of site to a large hill that look like a pyramid. It had a few stands on it so we called it Tm c 239. Just work digging

Tm c 239.

Just before supper we went ½ north of Palmillas and saw a small mound 3 feet high and 30 feet in diameter. It contained bottles and it is not worth digging.

Tm R 240

Dec. 23.

Alamar de Platanito

subterranean tombs

Fr. Ignacio Linares

Rancho Rosario

Edmundo Castro Muñoz
Escuela Normal (durante la mañana)
Matamoros y Morelos (durante la tarde)
Calle 4
Palacio Municipal (Dirección Educ. Pública)

S. Saavedra L.
Hidalgo 13 y 14
C. Victoria, Tamps.
México

Sr. Ignacio Guerra, Rancho Progreso (Ocampo)
Knows of ~~Al~~ The local caves and a site called
Alamar del Platanito, where there have been found
stone Tombs with pots, etc.

The road to Ocampo leaves the P-A highway
at Linares or between Linares and El Barretal.

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[Daily Field Notes] (6)